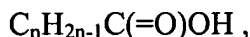


**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 through page 2a line 7, as follows:**

According to the present invention, the problem has been resolved by a method for preparing metal salts of unsaturated, short-chain carboxylic acids by reaction

- of metal-alcoholate compounds
- with carboxylic acids of the general formula

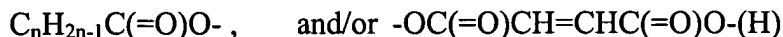


wherein the double bond is in 2- or 3-position and

n represents 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 and/or maleic acid (less desirable),

in the presence of oxygen, which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction solution is at least 50 %, i.e., the reaction solution is 50% oxygen-saturated and

the metal salts have at least one group of the formula



and the following metals or mixtures thereof

Al, Si, Sn, La, Zr, Cu and/or Zn.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21, as follows:**

wherein  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  represent  $-CH_3$ ,  $-C_2H_5$ ,  $-C_3H_7$  or  $-C_4H_9$

and n,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  may be different for each a, b, and c and

at least one  $R^1$  in  $M(R^1)_c$  represents an alcoholate group having a  $C_1$  – to  $C_6$  hydrocarbons residue, in the presence of oxygen ( $O_2$ ), which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction is at least 50 % as set forth above.